

29 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Comments on Organization and Functions of NRO

REFERENCE : Memorandum for NRO Program Directors, Director, NRO Staff, from DNRO, subject Organization and Functions of the NRO, dated 23 July 1962 [redacted]

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1. In general I concur with the referenced paper on the organization and functions of the NRO and think it is a good and useful basis for initial NRO operations. It is probable that over a period of time some changes will occur, particularly in the staffing pattern which must be responsive to the particular current requirements. In this connection I have a feeling that the Office of the Assistant for Plans and Policy is unduly small since I believe that the most important function of the NRO will be in the planning, programming and evaluation fields. On the other hand, the Office of the Deputy for Operations may be somewhat large unless more activities are transferred from the West Coast than presently are believed will be possible.

2. In connection with the CIA participation in the NRO, I should like to suggest that the DD/R's position be designated as Senior CIA Representative reporting directly to DNRO rather than as Director of Program B since this would give him the responsibility as the DCI's representative with responsibilities across the entire NRO. The Assistant Director of Special Activities, CIA, who within the Agency has direction of Agency reconnaissance activities under the DD/R, should be designated as Director of Program B.

3. In view of the fact that the Agency is a legally separate entity budget-wise from the Defense Department, I believe that the NRO budgetary procedures insofar as they apply to CIA should be spelled out in more detail than currently is the case in paragraph 2 i. on page 4. A proposed operating procedure is attached as Tab A.

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4. On page 5 in paragraph 3 b. the Program Directors are asked to submit detailed organizational diagrams and listings of personnel working on NRO matters. From an Agency point of view I believe that it would be desirable to limit these submissions to organization charts with names of the key personnel. Further designations probably would be undesirable from a security point of view and perhaps not even feasible to prepare.

5. The following detailed changes are suggested to improve the clarity of the existing document and to bring it in line with the above comments:

(a) Page 2, paragraph c: To assure clarity, the word "that" should be inserted before "NRP satellite effort" in line 5.

(b) Page 3, subparagraph (5): This should read, "The activities and office of the Director, Program B, are covered by his overt duty in the Office of the Deputy Director (Research), CIA."

(c) Page 3, paragraph f: Suggest deletion of "and solely" since the DCI and the DD/R must have a direct command responsibility over the programs assigned to CIA.

(d) Page 3, paragraph g: It is not clear what is meant by suitable documentation. It is hoped that paper work for the NRO will be kept to an absolute minimum and that the present streamlined procedures of inter-Agency support presently in practice will continue. It is also believed that "NRO" in the third line should read "NRP".

(e) Page 3, paragraph h: This paragraph is obviously for use internally in DOD since the quoted portion would not be used in CIA.

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(g) Page 4, paragraph j (1): I believe that the assignment of operational control to appropriate Program Directors must finally rest with the Secretary of Defense and the DCI. Wording here, therefore, should more appropriately be "will recommend the assignment".

(h) Page 6, subparagraph (7): Should not this sentence begin "Conduct studies of the over-all NRP to assist the DNRO in determining the most reasonable combination..."

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

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Attachment: (1)



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